

Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 29, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,191, Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims, and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

page 1 of the specification has been amended to replace docket numbers with application numbers accordingly.

page 13, line 14, page 14, line 37, page 17, line 26, page 18, line 15 and page 22, line 17 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the assembly is arranged so that the printhead module is removable from the assembly upon removal of the drive electronics and the electrical conductors. Support for this amendment can be found at page 13, line 32-page 18, line 14 of the present specification;

dependent claim 3 is amended to clarify that each one of the at least two flexible printed circuit boards is connected to a respective one of the at least two printhead integrated circuits. Support for this amendment can be found, for example, at page 7, line 36-page 8, line 6 of the present specification;

dependent claim 7 is amended to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, line 27-page 7, line 7 and page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2 and 4-6 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objections

Regarding Claim 3

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 3 to clarify that each one of the at least two flexible printed circuit boards is connected to a respective one of the at least two printhead integrated circuits, as is described at page 7, line 36-page 8, line 6 of the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding "the fluid distribution members"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 7 to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits, clarifies that the claimed fluid distribution members refer to the disclosed fluid distribution stacks 500 (see page 6, line 27-page 7, line 7 and page 8, lines 19-27 of the present specification), and therefore provides sufficient antecedent basis for this term later in the claim.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1, 2 and 5-7 over claims 1 and 5-9 of copending Application No. 10/760,191, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,191 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on an elongate fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

In order to provide easy removability of the modules, the associated drive electronics 100 and busbars 71-73 for providing power are arranged to be removable so that the modules may be removed from the casing (see page 6, line 27-page 7, line 7 and page 13, line 32-page 18, line 14 of the present specification). Amended independent claim 1 recites these features of the present invention.

On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16, which is secured to a chassis 14. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length. Furthermore, contrary to the Examiner's contention, drive electronics are not provided on the printhead assembly of Silverbrook, rather the PCB 54 of the chassis has a connector 66 which connects to an external controller.

Furthermore, the modules are clipped to the reservoir molding which is heat staked to the chassis using the clips 44 of the modules. Thus, it is not necessary to remove the PCB 54 and associated electrical connections to remove the modules (see col. 2, lines 6-53, col. 4, lines 6-18, and col. 5, lines 3-38 of Silverbrook), as is required by amended claim 1.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-7 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Silverbrook.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

Applicants:



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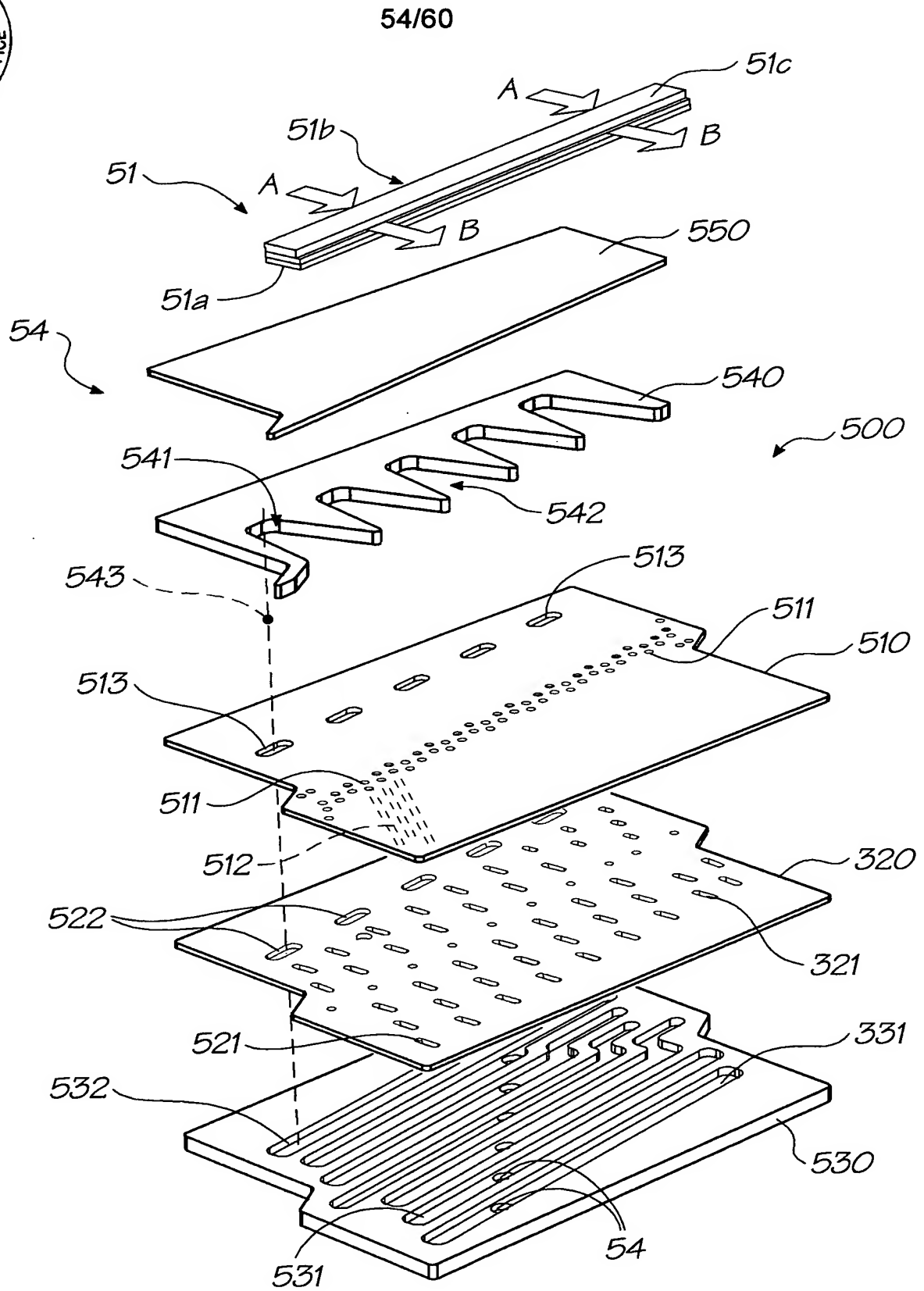


FIG. 43